

## Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204198 TOSEC 100222

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, OAS, US, CU

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: FURTHER REACTION TO  
LIFTING OF THIRD COUNTRY SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA

REF: TOSEC 100072

TO THE SECRETARY FROM RYAN (ACTING)

NASSAU: FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. SINCE OUR INITIAL REACTION MESSAGE TRANSMITTED REFTTEL, ADDITIONAL PRESS AS WELL AS THIRD COUNTRY REACTIONS HAVE COME IN. WITH SOME PREDICTABLE EXCEPTIONS (NICARAGUA FOR EXAMPLE), THEY HAVE BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE.

2. MEDIA: EDITORIAL REACTION CONTINUES SPARSE. MIAMI HERALD TERMED ACTION PRAGMATIC. BALTIMORE SUN OBSERVED THAT DECISION ELIMINATES INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN US AND OAS POLICIES AND INFRINGEMENT OF THIRD COUNTRIES' SOVEREIGNTY. SUN CONTINUED THAT BILATERAL ISSUES ARE SUCH  
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NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT HAVANA BACK IN ORGANIZED BASEBALL NEXT SEASON. WASHINGTON STAR REVIEWED CONCILIATORY GESTURES BY BOTH SIDES AND CONCLUDED "PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD LOSE LITTLE TIME IN REMOVING THE BARRIERS TO

DIRECT TRADE ... AND INITIATING DIRECT TALKS TOWARD A

FULL RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS."

3. THIRD COUNTRY REACTIONS:

A) WESTERN HEMISPHERE

BRAZILIAN FONMIN WROTE YOU THAT ACTIONS STILL CANNOT FAIL TO PRODUCE AN IMPACT ON BILATERAL US-CUBAN RELATIONS TO EXTENT THAT THEY PROVIDE AN OPENING FOR CUBANS TO REACT TO YOUR STATEMENT THAT US IS PREPARED FOR SERIOUS TALKS. CANADIAN OFFICIALS IN OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION OVER ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTEREST IN OBTAINING MORE DETAILED INFORMATION. COLOMBIAN FONMIN TOLD AMB. IT WAS "MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION". VENEZUELAN FONMIN TOLD AMB. IT WAS "GREAT STEP FORWARD". MEXICAN FONMIN AND TRADE OFFICIALS WELCOMED NEWS.

B) OTHERS:

MOROCCAN FONMIN TOLD AMB. DECISION WAS "POSITIVE STEP". SPANISH MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND LEBANESE FONMIN OFFICIAL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. FRENCH QUAI OFFICIAL ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT EXPORT TO US OF FRENCH PRODUCTS CONTAINING CUBAN NICKEL.

TASS COMMENTED AUGUST 22: "FORMALLY THIS STEP DOES NOT MEAN ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONS ... AT THE SAME TIME IT IS AN INDICATION OF THE CURRENT TREND IN THE USA TOWARD A REVISION OF ITS RELATIONS WITH CUBA ... THE FACT THAT THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO DECLARED BY THE USA IN 1962 WAS LIFTED ONLY PARTIALLY NOW TESTIFIES TO THE FACT THERE ARE INFLUENTIAL FORCES IN THE US WHICH OPPOSE A NORMALIZATION OF US-CUBAN RELATIONS".

4. CUBAN REACTION

IN CASTRO'S PRESS INTERVIEW AUGUST 21 CITED REFTTEL, CASTRO  
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FOR FIRST TIME HELD OUT POSSIBILITY OF PRIVATE OFFICIAL TALKS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. PREVIOUSLY, CUBANS HAVE INSISTED ANY "OFFICIAL" TALKS REQUIRED FULFILLMENT OF PRECONDITIONS. (CASTRO DID MAINTAIN "DEEP NEGOTIATIONS" ARE POSSIBLE ONLY IF US DROPS EMBARGO IN PART). CASTRO APPEARS TO BE REPLYING TO YOUR JULY 14 STATEMENT THAT WE ARE PREPARED FOR SERIOUS EXCHANGES ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. CASTRO LINKED OUR THIRD COUNTRY SANCTIONS DECISION TO 1973 HIJACKING AGREEMENT SUGGESTING FORMER IS US QUID PRO QUO FOR CUBA'S ACQUIESCENCE IN LATTER. CUBA MAY THEREFORE RESPOND TO THIRD COUNTRY DECISION BY ONLY SOME SMALL, SYMBO-

LIC "GESTURE", POSSIBLY RELEASE OF SOME MORE AMERICAN

PRISONERS, OR NOT AT ALL. INGERSOLL

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